

WISHA REGIONAL DIRECTIVE

WISHA Services

Department of Labor and Industries

18.45 HIGH VOLTAGE NIGHT PATROL REQUIREMENTS

Date: September 2, 2002

I. Background

A portion of the code dealing with high voltage work addresses patrolling overhead power lines from public highways at night. WAC 296-45-385(15) states, "While on patrol at night and operating a motor vehicle on the public highways, there shall be two employees, at least one of whom shall be a journey level lineworker or otherwise a competent or qualified employee. If repair to line or equipment is found to be of such nature as to require two lineworkers, work shall not proceed until additional help has been obtained provided that in cases of emergency where delay would increase the danger to life, limb, or substantial property, one employee may clear the hazard without assistance."

II. Scope

This policy provides guidance to WISHA staff regarding the application of WAC 296-45-385(15). It replaces WISHA Interim Interpretive Memorandum #96-4-B, issued April 30, 1996, and will remain in effect indefinitely.

III. Application Guidance

Does WAC 296-45-385(15) apply to supervisory and management personnel?

Yes. WAC 296-45-385(15) applies to all employees of the employer when conducting the patrols in question and otherwise subject to the standard, regardless of whether they are management employees.

Approved: _____

Michael Wood

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For further information about this or other WISHA Regional Directives, you may contact WISHA Policy & Technical Services at P.O. Box 44648, Olympia, WA 98504-4648 or by telephone at (360)902-5503. You also may review policy information on the WISHA Website (<http://www.wa.gov/lni/wisha>).